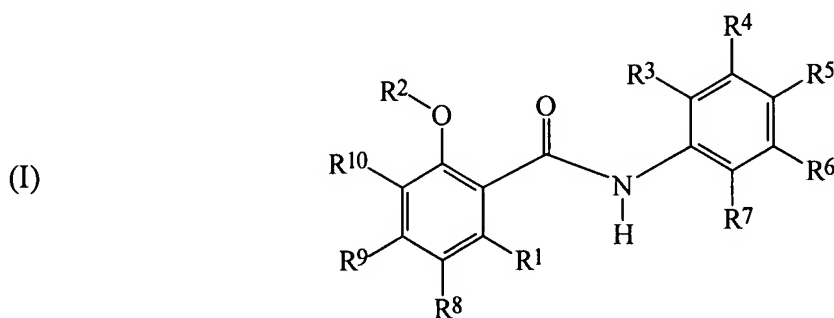


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please delete all prior lists of claims in the application and insert the following list of claims:

Claims 1-4 (CANCELED).

5. (NEW) A compound of structural formula (I) for use as an activator of histone acetyltransferases:



wherein:

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁- to C₁₆-alkyl and C₁- to C₁₆-alkene;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and C₁- to C₆-alkyl;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁- to C₆-alkyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, and CN;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁- to C₆-alkyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, and CN;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁- to C₆-alkyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, and NO₂;

R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁- to C₆-alkyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, and CN;

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁- to

C₆-alkyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, and CN; and

R⁸, R⁹, and R¹⁰ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁- to C₁₆-alkyl, C₁- to C₁₆-alkene, and C₁- to C₁₆-alkoxy; and salts thereof.

6. (NEW) The compound of claim 5, wherein:

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, C₈H₁₈, C₁₅H₂₆, C₁₅H₂₈, C₁₅H₃₀, and C₁₅H₃₂;

R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl and t-butyl;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl and t-butyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, and CN;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl and t-butyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, CN;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl and t-butyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂;

R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl and t-butyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, CN; and

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl and t-butyl, CF₃, CCl₃, Cl₃, F, Cl, I, NO₂, CN.

7. (NEW) The compound of claim 5, selected from the group consisting of:

N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-benzamide;

N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-propoxy-benzamide;

N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-isopropoxy-benzamide;

N-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;

N-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;

N-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-methoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;

N-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-methoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;
 N-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-n-propoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;
 N-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-isopropoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;
 N-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-n-propoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;
 N-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-isopropoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;
 N-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-benzamide;
 N-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-benzamide;
 N-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-methoxy-benzamide;
 N-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-methoxy-benzamide;
 N-(4-chloro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-n-propoxy-benzamide;
 N-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-n-propoxy-benzamide;
 N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;
 N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-methoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide;
 N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-propoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide; and
 N-(4-nitro-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-2-isopropoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzamide.

8. (NEW) The compound of claim 5, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are defined such that the ring moiety to which R^1 , R^2 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} defines a moiety selected from the group consisting of anacardic acid, anacardic aldehyde, anacardic alcohol, 2-ethoxy-6-pentadecyl-benzoic acid, cardanol, and cardol.

9. (NEW) The compound of Claim 5, wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of C_{12} - to C_{16} -alkyl and C_{12} - to C_{16} -alkene, and R^2 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are hydrogen.

10. (NEW) A method to prepare compounds of claim 5, the method comprising: condensing O-alkyl anacardic acid halides or suitable derivatives thereof, with a suitably-substituted aniline to yield a benzamide compound as recited in claim 5.

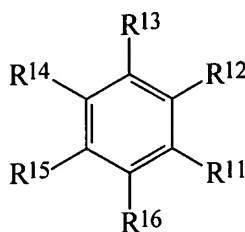
11. (NEW) A method of treating a patient suffering from diseases due to defects in gene regulation, including cancer, the method comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of claim 5 or a pharmaceutically suitable salt thereof, wherein the amount is sufficient to activate histone acetyltransferases.

12. (NEW) The method of claim 11, which is a method to treat a disease selected from the group consisting of cancer, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), HIV infection, and asthma.

13. (NEW) A method of activating histone acetyltransferases in a patient requiring same, the method comprising administering to the patient an amount of a compound of claim 5 or a pharmaceutically suitable salt thereof, wherein the amount is sufficient to activate histone acetyltransferases.

14. (NEW) A pharmaceutical composition for treating cancer, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), HIV infection, and asthma, the composition comprising an anti-cancer-, anti-AIDS-, anti-HIV- or anti-asthma-effective amount of a compound of claim 5 or a pharmaceutically suitable salt thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

15. (NEW) A method of inhibiting histone acetyltransferases in a patient requiring same, the method comprising administering to the patient an amount of a compound of formula (II)



R¹¹ is methyl, hydroxyl, carboxylic, O-methoxy, O-ethoxy, n-propoxy, O-isopropoxy, n-butoxy, t-butoxy, C₈H₁₈, C₁₅H₂₆, C₁₅H₂₈, C₁₅H₃₀, C₁₅H₃₂;

R¹² is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxyl, carboxylic, O-methoxy, O-ethoxy, n-propoxy, O-isopropoxy, n-butoxy, t-butoxy, C₈H₁₈, C₁₅H₂₆, C₁₅H₂₈, C₁₅H₃₀, C₁₅H₃₂;

R¹³ is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxyl, carboxylic, O-methoxy, O-ethoxy, n-propoxy, O-isopropoxy, n-butoxy, t-butoxy, C₈H₁₈, C₁₅H₂₆, C₁₅H₂₈, C₁₅H₃₀, C₁₅H₃₂;

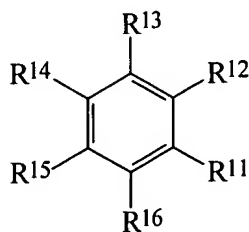
R¹⁴ is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxyl, carboxylic, O-methoxy, O-ethoxy, n-propoxy, O-isopropoxy, n-butoxy, t-butoxy, C₈H₁₈, C₁₅H₂₆, C₁₅H₂₈, C₁₅H₃₀, C₁₅H₃₂;

R¹⁵ is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxyl, carboxylic, O-methoxy, O-ethoxy, n-propoxy, O-isopropoxy, n-butoxy, t-butoxy, C₈H₁₈, C₁₅H₂₆, C₁₅H₂₈, C₁₅H₃₀, C₁₅H₃₂; and

R¹⁶ is hydrogen, methyl, hydroxyl, carboxylic, O-methoxy, O-ethoxy, n-propoxy, O-isopropoxy, n-butoxy, t-butoxy, C₈H₁₈, C₁₅H₂₆, C₁₅H₂₈, C₁₅H₃₀, C₁₅H₃₂;

or a pharmaceutically suitable salt thereof, wherein the amount is sufficient to inhibit histone acetyltransferases in the patient.

14. (NEW) A pharmaceutical composition for treating cancer, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), HIV infection, and asthma, the composition comprising an anti-cancer-, anti-AIDS-, anti-HIV- or anti-asthma-effective amount of a compound formula (II)



wherein R¹¹ through R¹⁶ are as recited in claim 13, or a pharmaceutically suitable salt thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.